

LEGISLATURE of NEBRASKA

A Synopsis of Proceedings of the Twenty-Ninth General Session.

SENATE—The senate on the 28th was busy with passage of bills, among them being the following: S. F. 95, providing that judgments shall become dormant in five years. S. F. 36, providing that railroads shall keep open for the convenience of the public suitable waiting rooms at stations. S. F. 155, providing that it is unlawful to kill squirrels. S. F. 133, providing for appeals to the district court from the decision of a board of equalization. S. F. 55, providing that banks in towns of 400 shall have a capital stock of \$5,000. S. F. 139, providing that the number of pounds contained in a sack of flour or cereals shall be stamped on the outside of the sack. S. F. 181, allows road districts to vote a 25 mill levy for the improvement of roads. S. F. 76, Bresee's bill to divide the Fourteenth judicial district. H. R. 14, allows villages to buy land for parks. In the committee of the whole, with Epperson in the chair, the senate killed H. R. 29, the bill to pay for the bond of former Attorney General Prout. H. R. 118, the object of which is to do away with professional jurors, was recommended for passage. The bill to create a state board of pardons was indefinitely postponed.

HOUSE—The house on the 28th, the fortieth day of the session, passed these bills: H. R. 174, by Andersen of Douglas—A joint memorial to determine the true status of the Nebraska territorial militia. H. R. 179, by Douglas of Rock—Providing for salary of school superintendents in certain counties. H. R. 122, by McClay of Lancaster—Providing for burial of inmates of state institutions in the state cemetery at Lincoln. H. R. 129, by Dodge of Douglas—Providing for the detachment of unplatted land from corporate limits to exempt it from local taxes. Emergency. H. R. 194, by Rouse of Hall—Providing for the payment by counties of the premium on the bonds of the county treasurer where such bonds are executed by a surety company authorized by the laws of Nebraska to execute such bonds, such premium not in any instance to exceed 1/2 of 1 per cent per annum of the penalty stated in the bond. H. R. 224, by Peabody of Nemaha—Providing for the organization and government of drainage districts. H. R. 191, by McClay of Lancaster—To print all biennial state officers' reports in one compilation. A large number of bills were introduced, it being the last day for such opportunity. Among them were the following: S. F. 248, by Thomas of Douglas—To create a county comptroller. S. F. 249, by Shreck of York—To compel railroads to pay shrinkage on freight shipments. S. F. 253, by Laverty of Saunders—To amend game laws. S. F. 251, by Sheldon of Cass—Regulating tax sales. S. F. 252, by Sheldon—To abolish the Newbery maximum freight rate act.

SENATE—Members of the senate on the 1st took advantage of their last chance to introduce bills except through a personal message of the governor and handed in twenty measures, several of which will affect the corporations of the state. The South Omaha Stock Yards will have two measures to contend with, the one by Sheldon of Cass to make it unlawful for the company to charge more than 25 per cent above the market price for hay and corn and the other by Gould to compel the company to unload stock within one hour after receiving it or to pay damages to the amount of \$5 for each car for every hour or fraction of an hour over the stipulated time in which it has to be

unloaded. The senate passed these bills: H. R. 97, 98, 99 and 100, by Clark of Douglas—Curative acts referring to costs, juries and changes of venue in justice courts. H. R. 118, to provide for the drawing of grand juries in Gage county. H. R. 204, to allow mutual insurance companies to withdraw securities deposited with the state auditor and deposit cash instead. In the committee of the whole with Epperson in the chair this morning S. F. 122 and 157 were recommended for passage. The former authorizes the canvass of the vote on constitutional amendments by the legislature and the latter is a measure which seeks to make the drainage law conform to the decision of the supreme court, which recently declared that a portion of it was invalid. At the afternoon session, with Beghtol in the chair in committee of the whole, the bill by Cady of Howard, which interprets the constitution in its reference to property which is exempt from taxation was discussed at length, and finally passed over for further discussion.

HOUSE—The house on the 1st spent almost the entire day in committee of the whole on the salaries appropriation bill. It cut out of the bill the appropriation of \$5,000 to maintain the state architect's office, increased the salary of the pathologist at the Lincoln asylum from \$1,200 to \$1,500, raised the salary of the superintendent of the feeble-minded institute at Beatrice from \$2,000 to \$2,500, and increased the salaries of the two bookkeepers in the land commissioner's office from \$1,200 to \$1,500 each. Many bills were introduced, including the following: To repeal section 3 of the valued policy insurance law allowing attorney's fees to plaintiffs when they have recovered against an insurance company thereunder. To amend the law relating to the proceedings of commissioner with respect to drainage improvements. To provide for the appointment of county attorneys in counties of less than 2,500 population. To provide for the appointment and the payment of assistants for clerks of the district court in counties having over 30,000 and less than 60,000 inhabitants. To provide an appropriation of \$3,000 for a library for the officers and crew and marines of the battleship Nebraska. Relating to the procedure for collection of taxes on personal property under seizure by officers. A joint resolution to amend article 10 of the constitution of the state of Nebraska by adding thereto section 6, relating to municipal charters; gives cities of 5,000 or more the right to make their own charters. To regulate and fix the price of electric arc lights for the lighting of streets and alleys in metropolitan cities in Nebraska; limits cost of 2,000 candle power arc lights to \$50 a year. To provide means of warning public school teachers and owners of live stock in this state against approaching severe storms through co-operation of the state department of public instruction with the United States weather bureau; appropriates \$500. To abolish slot machines in Nebraska and to provide a penalty of imprisonment not less than one or more than three years. To require public officers to report all interest received upon public funds, and requiring detailed reports of fees.

SENATE—In the senate on the 2nd the following bills were passed: H. R. 30, by Douglass of Rock—A bill to permit fraternal orders to incorporate. H. R. 56, by Burns—A bill codifying

certain sections of the insurance statutes relating to filing securities with the auditor. H. R. 17, by Casebeer—A bill to authorize the use of the State university cash fund for the general uses of the university. H. R. 45, by Knox—A bill authorizing the Peru Normal to buy library books with matriculation fees. H. R. 27, which exempts cemeteries owned by private parties from taxation, was recommended for passage. H. R. 90—The bill provides that inheritance tax, now paid into the state treasury shall be paid to the counties in which money is collected and used in the improvement of the public highways. Recommended for passage. The senate indefinitely postponed Tucker's bill for a joint resolution calling for a constitutional convention. The vote was 2 to 9. S. F. 108—Providing for the selection of grand and petit jurors, was ordered presented for third reading. H. R. 61—To provide an appropriation for the burial of indigent soldiers was recommended for passage. The senate concurred in the action of the house in killing the emergency clause on S. F. 8, the county engineer bill, and also on the house amendments to S. F. 6, the juvenile court bill.

HOUSE—These bills were passed in the house on the 2d: Authorizing the State Board of Public Lands and Buildings to sell a section of school land to Daniel L. Johnson now occupied by him. The juvenile court bill. Appropriating \$35,000 for rebuilding the old wing of the Norfolk insane asylum. Appropriating \$32,000 for a fireproof library building at the Peru Normal school and a heating apparatus, sewer and steam tunnel connections. Giving the right of eminent domain to electric and interurban railway companies. To protect trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies and to prohibit the giving or receiving of rebates on the transportation of property. To prohibit shooting of English, China or Mongolian pheasants, English and Belgian partridges, English black cocks or any other imported bird. To permit owners of contracts for lease of educational lands to perfect their titles under the law in force prior to 1879. To give warehouses a lien on goods left with them. Authorizing appeals from county levies to the district court and emergency clause. To permit drainage by tiled or open ditch into national water courses. Changing the offering or giving of a bribe in jury cases from a misdemeanor to a felony. A recalled anti-policy and lottery bill, said to be directed against suit clubs and emergency clause.

SENATE—In the committee of the whole on the 3rd Cady of Howard succeeded in having recommended for passage S. F. 196, proposing a constitutional amendment for the election of a railroad commission of three members to be paid a salary of \$3,000 a year each. The committee recommended these bills for passage, including Cady's constitutional amendment providing for a railroad commission: S. F. 180—Making State Historical society custodian of records lying dormant for twenty years. S. F. 165—The veterinary surgeon bill. These bills were read a third time and passed: H. R. 27—Authorizing cemetery associations to buy land and exempting the same from taxation. H. R. 90—Providing the inheritance tax shall be paid into the counties where the tax was collected, instead of being turned into the state treasury as at present. The money is to be used for the improvement of roads. H. R. 61—Appropriating money for the burial of indigent soldiers. The senate voted to reconsider its action on H. R. 175, which it had previously indefinitely postponed. This bill provides that twenty people can organize a county agricultural association, hold a fair and secure an appropriation of 3 cents for each inhabitant. It applies to counties of over 40,000 and will be a great thing for the present Douglas County Agricultural Fair association and any

other association which exhibits a few pumpkins or such like and calls the occasion a fair. H. R. 137, to allow townships in counties under township organization to vote a levy of 10 mills for road purposes was recommended for passage. S. F. 137, an amendment to the anti-trust law allowing individuals to bring suit in their own names, when aggrieved, instead of the attorney general or county attorney bringing the suit, was recommended for passage. S. F. 87, providing for payment of costs in misdemeanor cases, was recommended for passage.

HOUSE—The following bills were passed on the 3rd: H. R. 240, by the Lancaster delegation and Lee and Foster of Douglas, to prohibit the "oriental and muscular dance" known as hoochee-koochee; vote 62 to 30. H. R. 104, by Lee of Douglas, to prevent the sale or donation of opium, cocaine or morphine except on a physician's prescription. Emergency clause. H. R. 177, by Burgess of Lancaster, to provide for the funding of the outstanding school district bonds, rate of interest not to exceed 6 per cent. H. R. 221, by Muxen of Douglas, to regulate baby farms and provide a license. Emergency. S. F. 66, by Jones of Otoe exempting boundary streams from game and fish laws and permits seining in the Missouri river. Emergency clause. S. F. 62, by Meserve of Dixon, regulating the admission to practice of attorneys-at-law. H. R. 156, by McMullen of Gage, providing for the organization, government and compensation of the state militia; increases adjutant general's salary to \$1,800 a year; quartermaster general's to \$1,000; gives each armory \$250 instead of \$100 a year rental, allows the men 25 cents for each drill, requiring them to drill at least twice a month and brings the law into conformance with the Dick law. Emergency clause. S. F. 9, by Thomas of Douglas, exempting from embezzlement an attorney or collector who may retain the amount of his fee or commission on a collection. S. F. 46, by Shreck of York, requiring railroads to give one round trip pass to a shipper of one car of horses or cattle, two cars of hogs or mixed stock. At 1:30, when the house convened after noon recess, it went into committee of the whole, with Jackson of Antelope in the chair. S. F. 1, by Thomas of Douglas, came up. It is the bill providing for two shifts of twelve hours each for the firemen. Clarke of Douglas offered an amendment to have the bill take effect only when ratified at the polls by a majority of the voters of Omaha after it had been submitted by a petition of 20 per cent of the voters. The amendment was adopted by 40 to 41. After considerable discussion, McClay of Lancaster moved to recommend the bill for passage as amended. Barnes said it might as well be killed, since the citizens of Omaha had no voice in these matters, as the governor appointed the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, which controlled the affairs of the firemen. Clarke disputed this. McClay's motion prevailed, and the house adjourned until Monday.

Seriousness of Bridge Whist.

The door stood open as I passed and therein I beheld silent groups of women sitting around tables, their hands before their faces, their eyes riveted upon a sheaf of cards which they seemed about to devour. "What is this?" I asked. "Why this appalling silence and intense demeanor?" "Oh, that is a bridge whist club," was the response. "It's a matter of life or death with all the players."—Exchange.

Life is what we are alive to. It is not length, but breadth. To be alive only to appetite, pleasure, pride, money-making, and not to goodness and kindness, purity and love history, poetry and music, flowers, stars, God and eternal hopes, is to be all but dead.—Maltbie D. Babcock.